

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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P R 182204Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT WPS ON FINLAND - EASTERN EUROPEAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 3437, (B) GENEVA 4443

1. POSITION OF FINLAND, HUNGARIA, BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLO-
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VAKIA NOTED IN REF. B ON ORDER OF NOTIFICATION SCHEDULING

OF 1ST MEETINGS OF WPS WAS EXPECTED. WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER ORDER OF FIRST MEETINGS IMPORTANT, AND MISSION GENEVA SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ORDER OF SIGNATURE SCHEDULING. YOU SHOULD STRESS THE ARTIFICIALITY OF ORDER OF NOTIFICATION AS A CRITERION, NOTING THAT ALL THREE AGREEMENTS WERE NOTIFIED TO THE GATT ON THE SAME DAY (JAN. 22 1975) OR MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS AFTER THE INITIAL AGREEMENT (FINN-BULG.) WAS SIGNED.

2. SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT THE US AND EC POSITIONS IN THIS MATTER SHOULD BE COORDINATED, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SHIFT IN THE EC POSITION. REF. A SUGGESTS THAT THE EC GIVES AS MUCH IMPORTANCE AS WE DO TO AVOIDING TAKING UP THE HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT FIRST, WHILE LUYTEN'S COMMENTS IN REF B GIVE LESS IMPORTANCE TO THAT STRATEGY. OUR CONCERN IS THAT ONCE THE ORDER OF THE INDIVIDUAL WORKING PARTIES IS ESTABLISHED IT WILL PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE EXAMINATIONS. WHILE WE AGREE WITH LUYTEN'S COMMENT THAT THIS MAY NOT BE CRITICAL IN THE INITIAL WORKING PARTY MEETINGS WHEN PRIMARY FOCUS IS ON THE BASIC POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES, AT LATER MEETINGS, WHEN CONCLUSIONS ARE BEING DRAWN ABOUT THE AGREEMENTS, THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MOST DEFENSIBLE AGREEMENT (FINN-HUNGARIAN) MIGHT WELL SET THE PRECEDENT FOR THE CONCLUSIONS OF ALL THE AGREEMENTS. MISSION BRUSSELS SHOULD SEEK CONFIRMATION THAT EC'S VIEWS STILL COINCIDE WITH OURS AND THOSE REPORTED IN REF A.

3. MISSION GENEVA SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRE-AUGUST MEETINGS OF THE FIRST WORKING PARTIES. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE LATE JUNE DISTRIBUTION OF THE Q AND A'S BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE PROBABLE FINNISH AND EE CLAIMS THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PREPARE FOR MEETINGS BEFORE SEPTEMBER, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRESSING HARD ON THIS ISSUE WILL HAVE PRACTICAL RESULTS. MISSION SHOULD, THEREFORE, GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ORDER OF FIRST MEETINGS. INGERSOLL

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